Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please add on page 1 after the title the following new paragraph:

--**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION:**

This application is a continuation application of patent application Serial No. 10/277,967 filed on October 23, 2002, which is incorporated herein in its entirety by reference thereto.--

On page 7, please replace paragraph 24 with the following:

[0024] CV-1 cells (cultured cells derived from male African green monkey kidney) were inoculated into a 96-well culture plate at $6x10^3$ cells/well, and incubated at 37° C for 24 hours under 5% CO_2 conditions. As a medium, DMEM (Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium, product of GIBCO) containing 10% FBS (fetal bovine serum), 10 ml/L penicillin-streptomycin (5000 IU/ml and 5000 μg/ml, respectively, product of GIBCO), 37 mg/L ascorbic acid (product of Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd.) was used. Cells were washed with OPTI-MEM (product of GIBCO), a serum-free medium, and transfected with pM-mPPARγ and 4xUSAg-luc using LIPOFECTAMINE PLUS™ ~~LipfectAMINEPLUS™~~ (product of GIBCO), a reagent for transfection of genes using a cationic lipid. The pM-mPPARγ is a plasmid for chimeric protein expression which consisted of a yeast-derived transcription factor GAL4 gene (amino acid sequences 1 to 147) ligated to a mouse PPARγ ligand binding domain gene (amino acid sequences 174 to 475). The 4xUASg-luc is a reporter plasmid incorporated luciferase gene with 4-time-repeated responsive element (UASg) of GAL4 ligated thereto at the upstream end thereof. At approximately 24 hours after the transfection, the medium was replaced by a medium containing each sample (n=4) and cells were incubated for an additional 2 hours. Each sample used was dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) and DMSO was used as an untreated control sample. These samples were added to medium at a volume ratio of 1/1000. Cells were washed

with Ca, Mg-containing phosphate buffered saline (PBS+) and added with LUCLITE™ ~~LucLite™~~ (product of Packard), a reagent for determination of luminescence using luciferase. Then, the luminescent intensity by expressed luciferase was determined in a TOPCOUNT™ ~~TopCount™~~ Microplate Scintillation /Luminescence Counter (product of Packard).